

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [05] on page 2 with the following paragraph:

--[05] Methods providing for the reliable transfer of messages on a distributed communication network (e.g., the Internet) that involve simultaneous transfer of multiple copies of a message along alternate message paths have been described (see U.S. Patent Application No. 09/740,521, filed December 18, 2000, entitled "System and for Handling Information and Information Transfers in a Computer Network" and U.S. Patent and Application No. 09/997,839, filed November 29, 2001, entitled "Method for Transferring Messages Along Optimally Redundant Communication Paths in a Distributed Communication Network", both of which are hereby fully incorporated by reference for all purposes. However, these methods do not address the issue of securely and reliably transferring a large message in a very timely manner (i.e., securely and reliably transferring a large message with low latency and without the need for the entire message to be resent in case of transient delivery failures).--

Please replace the Abstract with the following:

-- A method for transferring messages ~~between a sending application program and a receiving application program~~ across a distributed communication network is disclosed. (e.g., the Internet) ~~that includes a message source coupled to a message destination. The method includes segmenting a A message (e.g., a relatively large message of one gigabyte or more) being received at the a message source from the a sending application program is segmented into a plurality of message segments. While this segmentation is occurring, a common message identifier and a unique sequence number are assigned to each of the plurality of message segmentsegments. The method also includes transferring the plurality of message segments are transferred from the message source to the a message destination, along with the common message identifier and unique sequence number assigned to the plurality of message segments, with at least one of the plurality of message segments being transferred as the message is being received at the message source. In other words, prior Prior to the entire message being received at the message source and segmented, message segments that have already been segmented from the message are transferred (i.e., sent) to the message destination. At the message destination, the plurality of message segments that have been transferred from the message source are received and assembled into a reassembled message as the plurality of message segments are received at the message destination. At least a A portion of~~

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the reassembled message is delivered to the a receiving application while the assembling is occurring.--